

SCOOP™

#Sci-FiWitness



MAVERICK

RICHARD ASHLEY
HAMILTON

PABLO ANDRÉS

SIMON ROBINS
DAVE LANPHEAR

SCOOP™



#SCIFIWITNESS

VOL.3

SCOOP™



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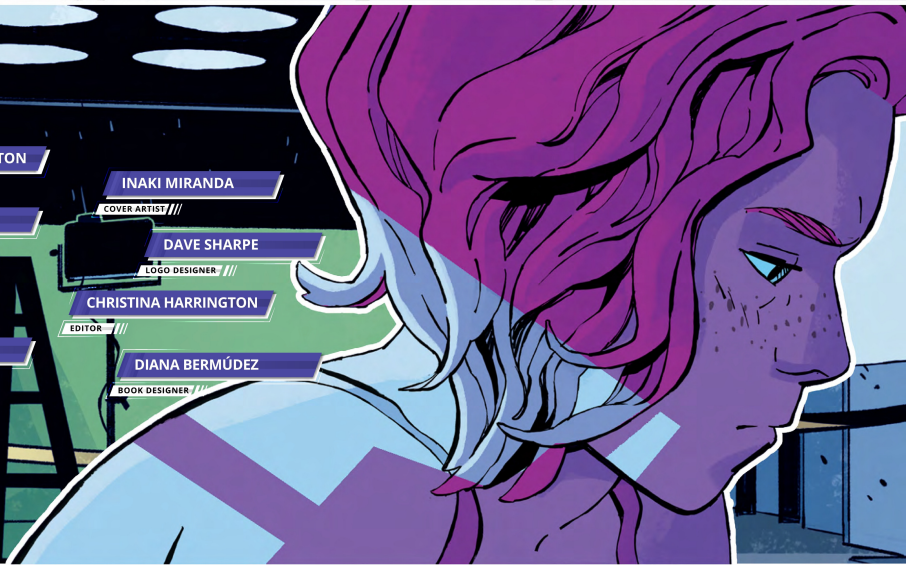
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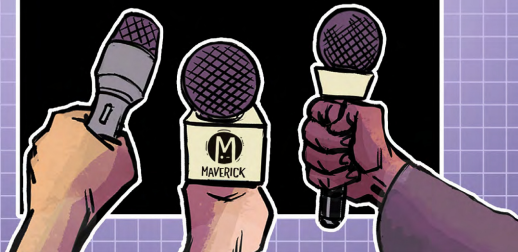
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Digital Version.





SOPHIE?



WHAT'RE YOU DOING ALL THE WAY OUT HERE?

BEING.

BORED.

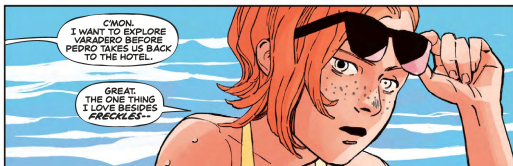
WHICH I COULD BE DOING BACK IN *MIAMI*.



NICE. WELL, GET OUT OF THE SUN SOON, UNLESS YOU WANT MORE FRECKLES.

YES, MOM. THAT IS WHAT I WANT. MORE FRECKLES. ALL THE FRECKLES. FRECKLES ON FRECKLES.

¡AY, SARCASMO! ¡QUE SORPRESA!



C'MON. I WANT TO EXPLORE VARADERO BEFORE PEDRO TAKES US BACK TO THE HOTEL.

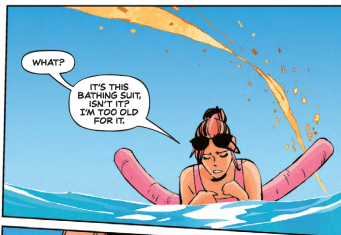
GREAT. THE ONE THING I LOVE BESIDES *FRECKLES*--



--MORE
SIGHTSEEING.

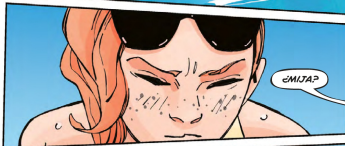


GASP!



WHAT?

IT'S THIS BATHING SUIT,
ISN'T IT?
I'M TOO OLD
FOR IT.

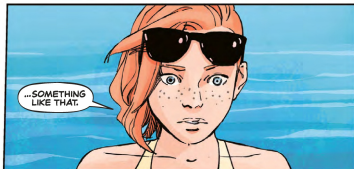


MIJA?

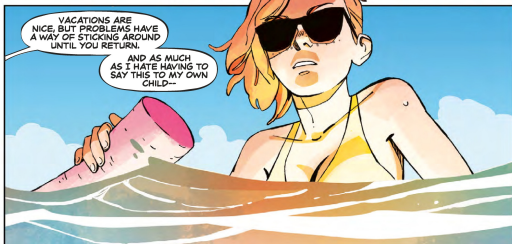


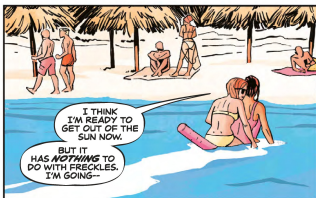
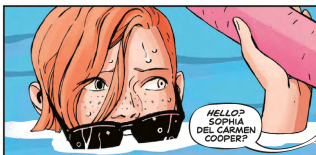
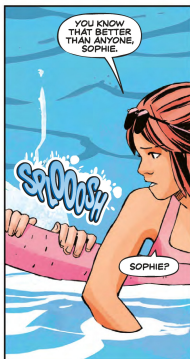
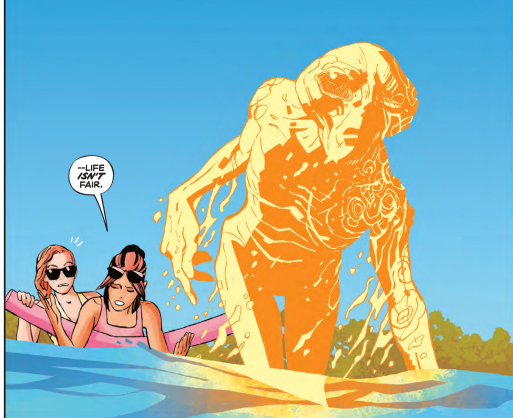
IS IT HAPPENING
AGAIN? ANOTHER
DOUBLE-VISION?

YEAH...



...SOMETHING
LIKE THAT.





"--FOR MY OWN REASONS."

Homestead, Florida
34 Miles South of Miami

B
BWOOOP

--WOULDN'T SAY THE ANIMALS SEEM SICK, NECESSARILY. JUST... TIRED. WEAK. LIKE WHEN A VET SEDATES 'EM.

AND THERE HAVEN'T BEEN ANY CHANGES IN SAY, THE COW'S FEED OR ENVIRONMENT THAT MIGHT ACCOUNT FOR THIS CONDITION?

NO, MA'AM. AND IT ISN'T JUST THE COWS. ALL OUR LIVESTOCK ARE LETHARGIC. PIGS. SHEEP. CHICKENS--





--MI PREMIO?

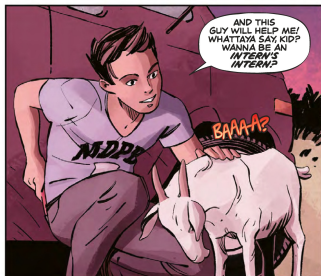


NOT WHAT I HAD IN MIND, COOPER.



CAN YOU AT LEAST **PRETEND** TO WORK?

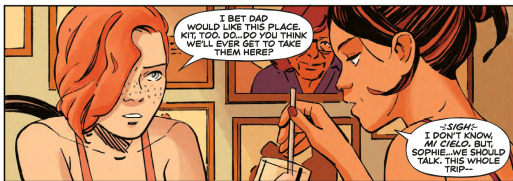
SORRY, LARAINÉ! I'LL START, UH, SEARCHING FOR CLUES.



AND THIS GUY WILL HELP ME! WHATTAYA SAY, KID? WANNA BE AN **INTERN'S INTERN**?



HUH.





incitándolos a bailar
pero al pasar el tiempo todo fue cambiando
y en la actualidad



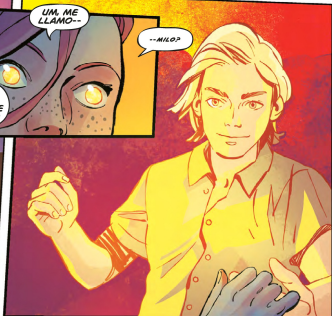
¡AY! ¡AY! ¡AY!
Ahora es mejor
al hablar!
Ahora es
mejor...



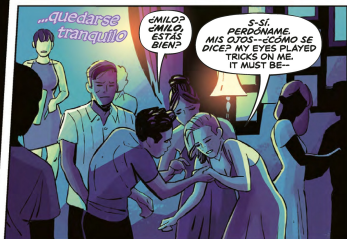
UM, ME
LLAMO--

--MILO?

SOY
TOMÁS.
¿CÓMO TE
LLAMAS?

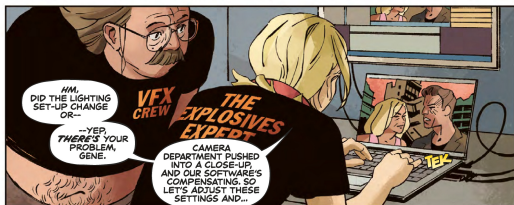
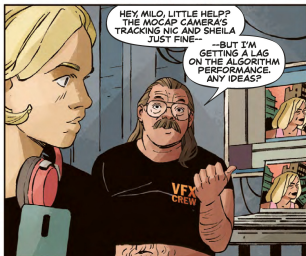


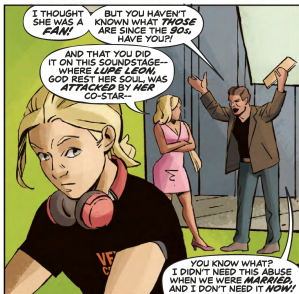
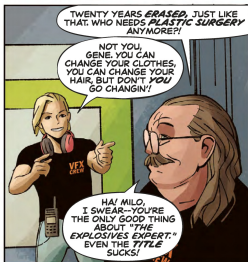
...quedarse
tranquilo



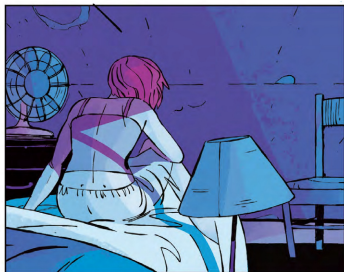
¿MILO?
¿MILO,
ESTÁS
BIEN?

S-SÍ.
PERDÓNAME.
MIS OJOS--¿CÓMO SE
DICE? MY EYES PLAYED
TRICKS ON ME.
IT MUST BE--













IF YOU
EVER DID
AT ALL.

SOPHIE,
WHERE'S THIS **COMING**
FROM? ARE YOU UPSET
THAT I DANCED WITH
PEDRO?



NO. YES.
BUT NOT *JUST* HIM.
IT'S THE WAY YOU ARE
WITH MAYOR DIAZ.
LIKE YOU'RE...
FLIRTING.



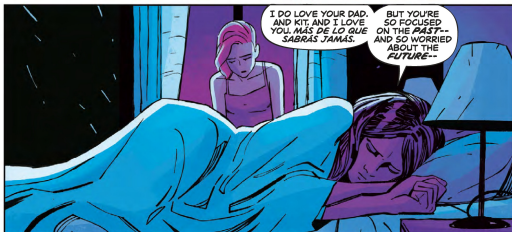
KIT'S NOTICED,
TOO, YOU KNOW. AND I
CAN'T HELP BUT THINK
DAD HAS ALSO.

I...I SEE
THAT YOU'RE BEING
HONEST. AND I WANT TO
HONOR THAT.



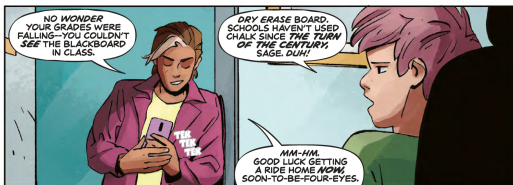
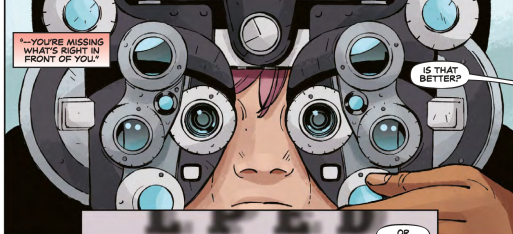
SO, YES, I WILL
ADMIT THERE IS A...
STRAIN BETWEEN
ME AND YOUR
FATHER.

BUT THAT'S **ALL** I'LL
ADMIT. BECAUSE SOME
NEWS IS MEANT TO STAY
PRIVATE. AND BECAUSE
THERE ARE TWO SIDES
TO MOST STORIES.



I DO LOVE YOUR DAD.
AND KIT, AND I LOVE
YOU. **MÁS DE LO QUE**
SABRÁS JAMÁS.

BUT YOU'RE
SO FOCUSED
ON THE **PAST--**
AND SO WORRIED
ABOUT THE
FUTURE--





TEK
TEK
TEK

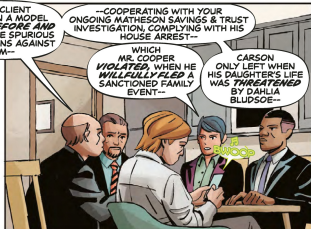
BLUDSOE

--MY CLIENT HAS BEEN A MODEL CITIZEN **BEFORE AND AFTER** THE SPURIOUS ALLEGATIONS AGAINST HIM--

--COOPERATING WITH YOUR ONGOING MATHESON SAVINGS & TRUST INVESTIGATION, COMPLYING WITH HIS HOUSE ARREST--

WHICH MR. COOPER **VIOLATED**, WHEN HE **WILLFULLY FLED** A SANCTIONED FAMILY EVENT--

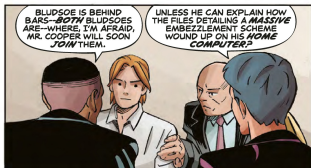
CARSON ONLY LEFT WHEN HIS DAUGHTER'S LIFE WAS **THREATENED** BY DAHLIA BLUDSOE--



BLUDSOE

BLUDSOE IS BEHIND BARS--**BOTH** BLUDSOES ARE--WHERE, I'M AFRAID, MR. COOPER WILL SOON **JOIN** THEM.

UNLESS HE CAN EXPLAIN HOW THE FILES DETAILING A **MASSIVE** EMBEZZLEMENT SCHEME WOUND UP ON HIS **HOME COMPUTER?**



MADAME DISTRICT ATTORNEY, IF I MAY?

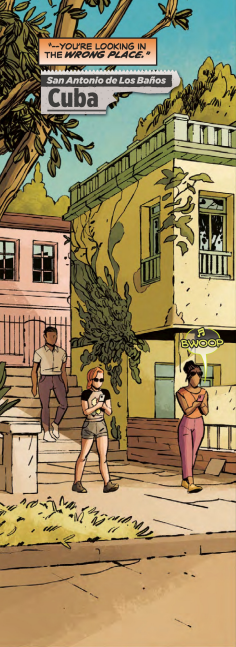
OF COURSE, MAYOR DIAZ.

I'VE KNOWN CARSON COOPER FOR A **DECADE**. HIS WIFE, DULCE, HAS WORKED FOR ME **EVEN LONGER**.

SO TRUST ME WHEN I SAY--



TEK
TEK
TEK

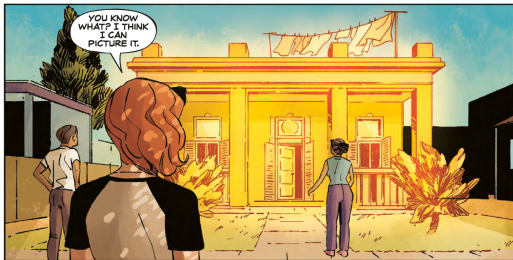


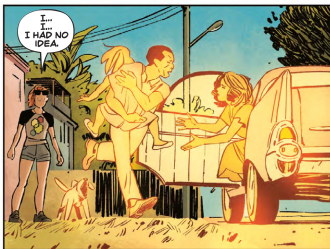
"...YOU'RE LOOKING IN THE WRONG PLACE."

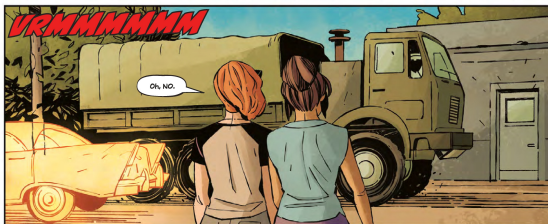
San Antonio de Los Baños

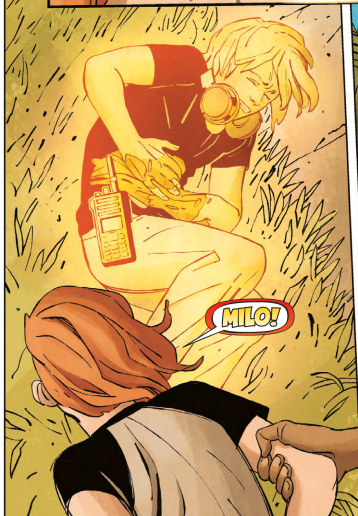
Cuba

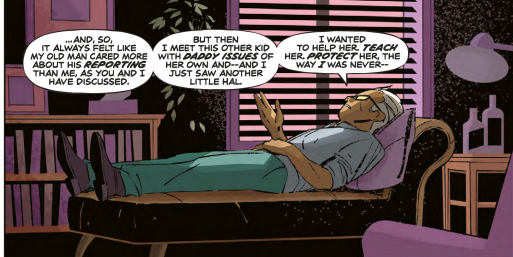












...AND, SO,
IT ALWAYS FELT LIKE
MY OLD MAN CARED MORE
ABOUT HIS **REPORTING**
THAN ME, AS YOU AND I
HAVE DISCUSSED.

BUT THEN
I MEET THIS OTHER KID
WITH **DADDY ISSUES** OF
HER OWN AND--AND I
JUST SAW ANOTHER
LITTLE HAL.

I WANTED
TO HELP HER. **TEACH**
HER. **PROTECT** HER, THE
WAY I WAS NEVER--



Oh, NO.

I--I DON'T
KNOW HOW, BUT
I KNOW SHE
NEEDS ME.
NOW.

WHAT...
WHAT DO I
DO?



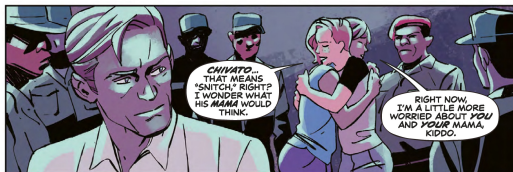
OF COURSE,
YES, YOU'RE **RIGHT**. I NEED
TO STOP LOOKING INWARD.
NOW'S THE TIME TO **LOOK**
OUT. FOR HER.



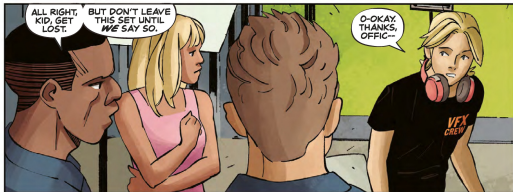
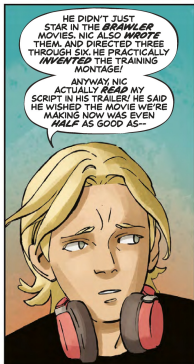
HANG ON,
GANGBUSTERS.

Mental Health Center
Miami



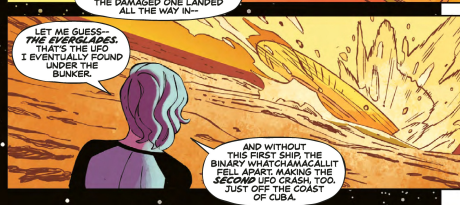
















MOM,
IT...IT'S
NOT YOUR
FAULT.



YOU'VE BEEN
HURT, TOO. YOU'VE
ALSO HAD SO MUCH
STOLEN FROM YOU. I...
I SEE THAT NOW.

YOU USED TO
HAVE A DOG, A *PUPPY*.
I HAD NO IDEA. SHE WAS
ADORABLE. SHE *LOVED*
YOU. SHE...SHE...



...RUBY?
THAT... THAT WAS HER NAME.
RUBY. BUT I NEVER *TOLD*
YOU ABOUT HER. I NEVER
TOLD ANYONE. EVEN YOUR
FATHER.

YEAH, WELL,
YOUR BAN ON PETS
SUDDENLY MAKES A LOT
MORE SENSE.

W-WE HAD TO
LEAVE SO FAST. AND
I COULDN'T TAKE *RUBY*.
I-I ALWAYS WORRIED
THAT SHE WAS STILL...
THERE. ON OUR
LAWN.



WAITING FOR
ME TO COME BACK FOR
DAYS. MONTHS. *YEARS*.
ALONE. FOREVER.

NO!
SHE WAS OKAY!
I SAW A BOY--YOUR
NEIGHBOR. HE TOOK IN
RUBY RIGHT AFTER
YOU DROVE AWAY.

BUT *HOW?*
HOW DID YOU
SEE ANY OF
THAT?

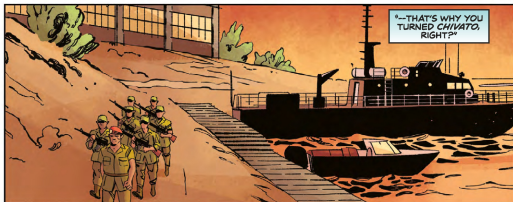


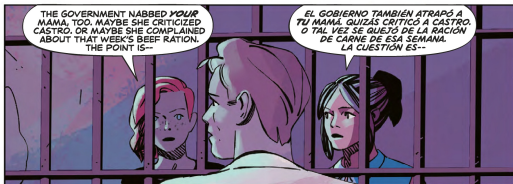
-SIGH-

ON THE DAY I QUIT
WMIA 7, I TOOK KIT BACK TO THE
BUNKER, WHERE I TOUCHED A UFO
THAT MAYBE-KINDA-SORTA MADE ME
SIMULTANEOUSLY SEE THE PAST
AND THE FUTURE--

--JUST LIKE
THE INVISIBLE MAN
I WAS TALKING TO A
MINUTE AGO.

IT'S
COMPLICATED.







The Everglades
Off Tamiami Trail,
US Highway 41, Miami

HM.
SIZE TWELVE,
NATURALLY.

SNAPT

Ah, MR. SAGE.
THANK YOU FOR
JOINING ME.

SHERIFF
FIREWALKER. HI. AND
IT'S, uh, *JUST SAGE*.
FROM MY MODELING
DAYS.

RIGHT.
YOU TOLD ME AS
MUCH AT SOPHIE
COOPER'S
BIRTHDAY.

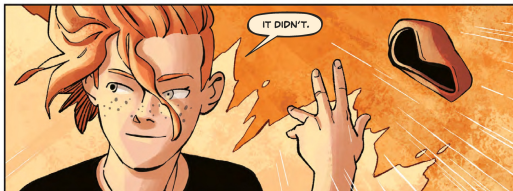
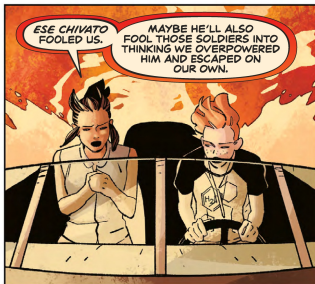
YEAH.
THAT WAS A FUN
PARTY. UNTIL THE
STABBING AND
HIGH-SPEED
CHASE.

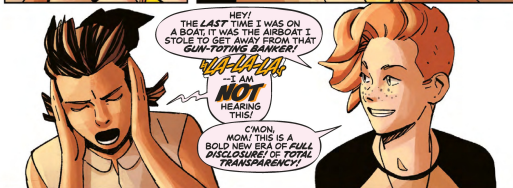
AM I
SAFE IN ASSUMING
YOUR SUMMONS HAS
SOMETHING TO DO WITH
THESE DAY-GLO
FOOTPRINTS?

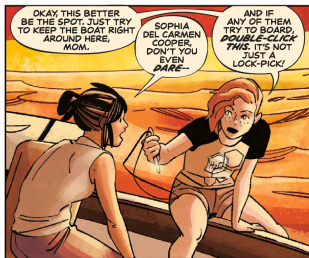
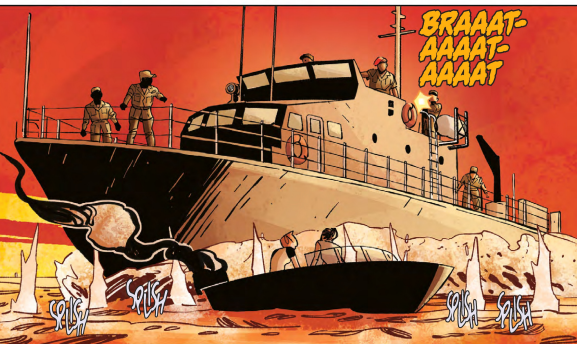
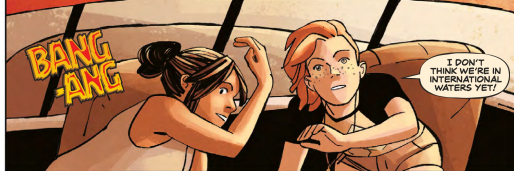
JUST SO.
FORGIVE ME FOR
REOPENING OLD
WOUNDS, BUT I BELIEVE
THEY MAY BE RELATED
TO THE DEATH OF YOUR
LATE HUSBAND.

...I SEE.



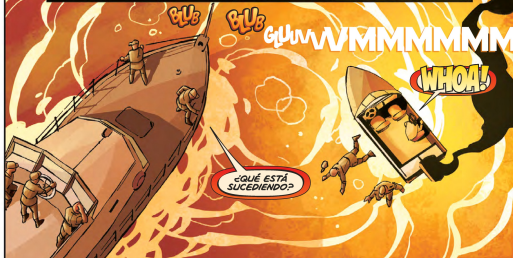




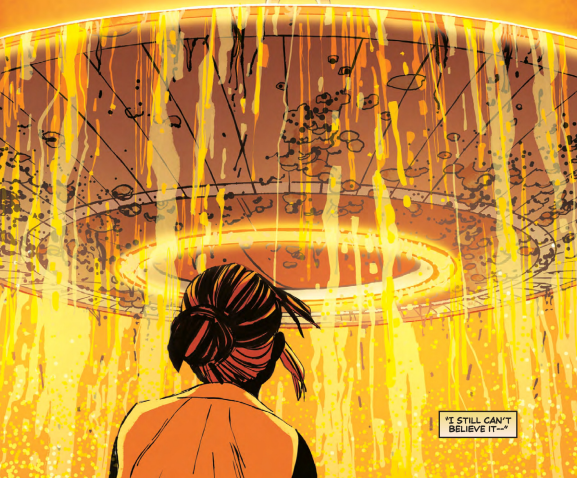


SOPHIE!

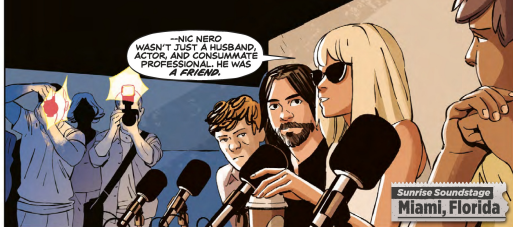


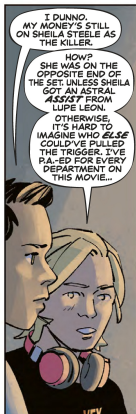
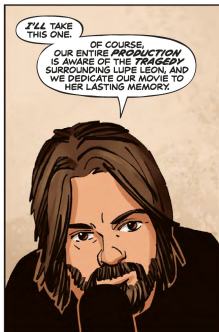


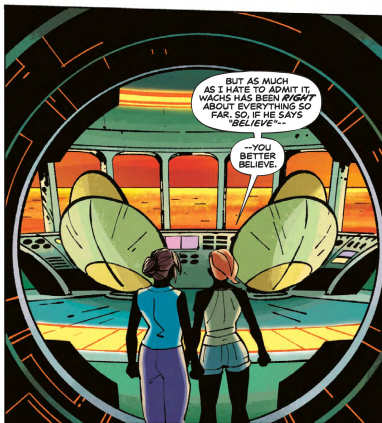
/UMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMM



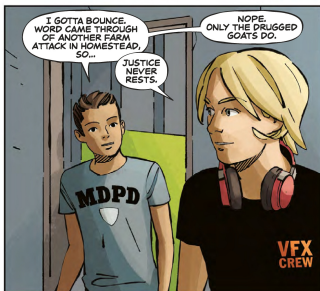
"I STILL CAN'T
BELIEVE IT--"











Cooper Residence

Coral Gables, Miami

--LIKE I'VE SAID ALL ALONG, I HAVE NO IDEA HOW THOSE FILES GOT ONTO MY COMPUTER. I'D NEVER EVEN SEEN THEM BEFORE THE ARRAIGNMENT!

AND WE DON'T DOUBT THAT. BUT FROM THE D.A.'S PERSPECTIVE, AS FAR AS "SMOKING GUNS" GO, THIS ONE'S FAIRLY... SMOKING.

CARSON, YOU KNOW WE WILL FIGHT THIS EVERY STEP OF THE WAY--

--YET IT ISN'T TOO LATE TO CUT A DEAL.

I'D BE LYING IF I SAID I HADN'T THOUGHT ABOUT IT, JAVI. BUT PLEA BARGAINING IS A NON-STARTER FOR DULCE.

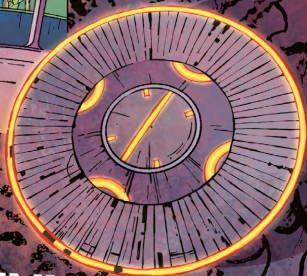






Oh. DUH.
OF COURSE.

Crop Circle
The Everglades



MMMMMM



LOOK AT
THAT. FIRST
CLASS ALL
THE WAY.

SKAK



MOM,
MAY I
PRESENT
TO YOU
EL HOMBRE
DE LOS
MANGLAES--
A.K.A. THE
MANGROVE
MAN.

Er...
ENCANTADA.

THE PLEASURE
GAVE THE
MARSHAL MAN'S

CONGRATULATIONS,
MISS COOPER--

--WE GET PLENTY
OF SPEEDING DRIVERS
AROUND THESE PARTS.
BUT YOU'VE SET A
NEW RECORD.

SHERIFF!
SAGE! I'M SO
GLAD YOU'RE
HERE!

MY FRIEND--
MILO--HE'S IN DANGER.
YOU NEED TO CALL THE
SUNRISE SOUNDSTAGE
AND--

WOULD IF
I COULD, BUT
MY CELL'S ON
THE FRITZ.

RADIOS ARE
DOWN, TOO--POSSIBLY
DUE TO THE ARRIVAL
OF YOUR...GIANT
SPACESHIP.

TERRIFIC, THEN
WHAT'S *FASTER*--
AN OVERPRICED E.V.
OR A SHERIFF'S
CRUISER?

MILKSHAKE
LAPT

H₂C

RRRRMM



HAVEN?!



FOR REAL?



UURRRR...ROOOOOOONNN

SORRY!
SEND BACK-UP!

SAF HAV1



Dolphin Expressway

Miami

TL;DR?
I'VE BEEN INTERNING
AT WMIA 7 SINCE YOU
BAILED--

VRRRROOOOCH

I CHOOSE
TO THINK OF IT
AS AN EXTENDED
HIATUS.

--NOT THAT I'M
COMPLAININ'. LITTLE
MIKE'S TAUGHT ME A
TON ABOUT AUDIO.
ONLY PROBLEM?

THIS "MOVIE STAR
MURDER" HAS MIAMI
PACKED WITH REPORTERS
FROM ALL OVER--

HONK
HONK

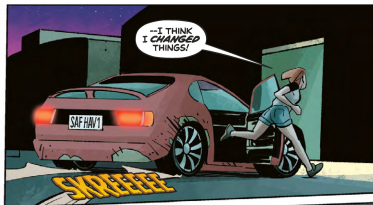
--I GAVE
A RIDE TO THIS DUDE
FROM RIO. NOT THAT HE
TIPPED OR RATED ME.
PUNK.

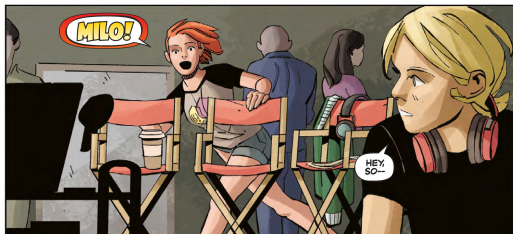
WHO'S BEEN COVERING THE
STORY FOR THE STATION?
OUR PAL, HAL? SUSIE
FRECHETTE?

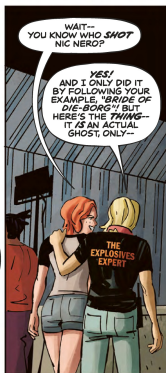
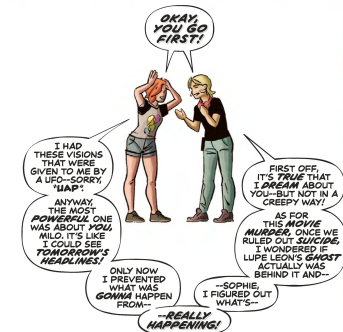
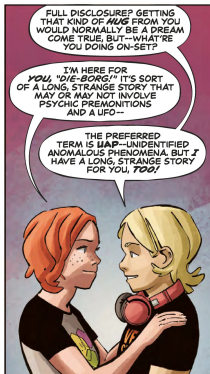
Nah. RIKKI.
YOU, uh, HEARD ABOUT
HAL, RIGHT? HOW HE
CHECKED HIMSELF INTO
A CLINIC AFTER YOU
LEFT?

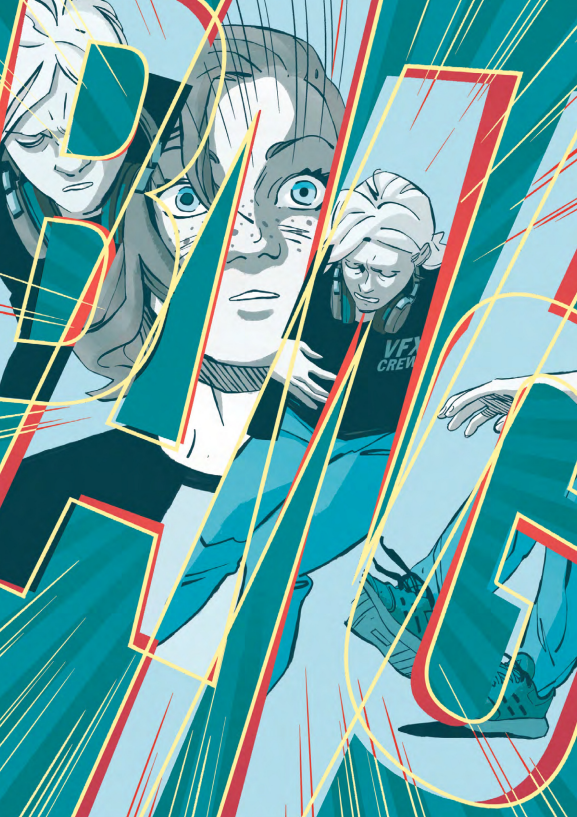
ONE
CRISIS AT A TIME,
HAVEN.

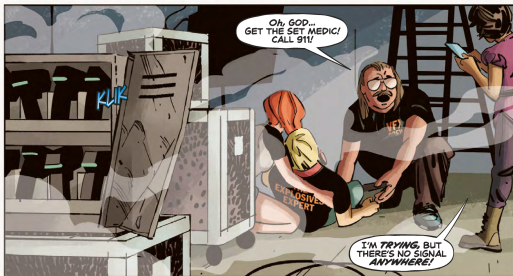
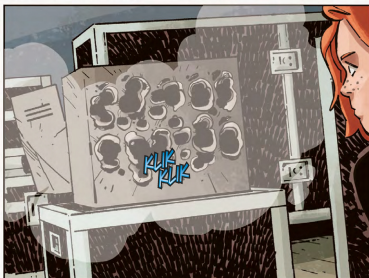
RIGHT NOW,
MY MIND'S ON MILO.
BUT I CAN'T EVEN GET
AN NEWS WITH THIS
INTERFERENCE
FROM--

















--A NEW LEAD.

THE BOY WE'VE KNOWN SINCE PRE-K JUST GOT GUNNED DOWN, AND YOU GO FOR UN SAFECITO...



...UNBELIEVABLE.



FOLLOW ME ALL YOU WANT.

BUT IF YOU EVEN *THINK* ABOUT SUCKER-PUNCHING ME AGAIN, I'M PRESSING CHARGES, YOU STUCK-UP, SELF-RIGHTEOUS SKA--



THE CALL SHEET. I JUST WANT TO KNOW IF MILO SAID *WHY* HE NEEDED IT.



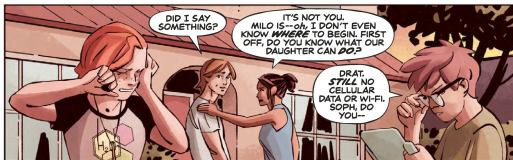
YOU MAY NOT CARE ABOUT HIM--EVEN AFTER HE ALWAYS LET YOU COPY OFF HIM IN AP ENGLISH-- BUT I DO.

"MAY NOT CARE?"> YOU KNOW, FOR A REPORTER--









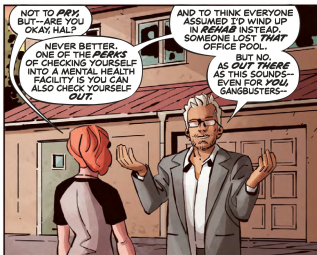


--THEN AGAIN, STYLISH MEN **CAN'T** GO WRONG IN GLASSES.

ESPECIALLY IF THEY'RE OF THE OLDER, HANDSOMER, **SILVER-FOXIER** VARIETY.



GOOD TO SEE YA, GANGBUSTERS. AND **BE** SEEN.

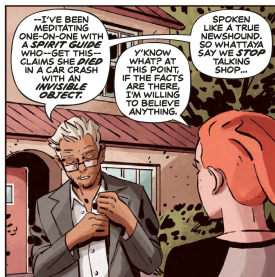


NOT TO **PRY**, BUT--ARE YOU OKAY, HALP?

NEVER BETTER. ONE OF THE **PERKS** OF CHECKING YOURSELF INTO A MENTAL HEALTH FACILITY IS YOU CAN ALSO CHECK YOURSELF **OUT**.

AND TO THINK EVERYONE ASSUMED I'D WIND UP IN **REHAB** INSTEAD. SOMEONE LOST **THAT** OFFICE POOL.

BUT NO, AS **OUT THERE** AS THIS SOUNDS--EVEN FOR YOU, GANGBUSTERS--



--I'VE BEEN MEDITATING ONE-ON-ONE WITH A **SPIRIT GUIDE** WHO--GET THIS--CLAIMS SHE **DIED** IN A CAR CRASH WITH AN **INVISIBLE OBJECT**.

Y'KNOW WHAT? AT THIS POINT, IF THE FACTS ARE THERE, I'M WILLING TO BELIEVE ANYTHING.

SPOKEN LIKE A TRUE NEWSHOUND. SO WHATTAYA SAY WE **STOP** TALKING SHOP...



...AND START ASKING **QUESTIONS?**

"EVERYONE ELSE IS OUT COVERING TODAY'S **TOP STORY**--"



News Room
WMIA 7

--FORTUNATELY, WHIRLY CHOPPERED OVER BEFORE ANY OTHER OUTLET, SO WE GOT THE **EXCLUSIVE**.

BROADCASTING'S BEEN **TRICKY** WITH ALL THAT STATIC FROM THE **MOTHERSHIP**, BUT LEON'S MAKIN' IT WORK.

I'VE BEEN GONE FOR TWO WEEKS AND EVERYONE SUDDENLY BECOMES **COMPETENT**? I SHOULD HAVE HAD MY BREAKDOWN **YEARS** AGO...



YES, THAT MIGHT'VE SPARED ME SOME OF **MINE**. REGARDLESS, I WANT TO FOLLOW OUR LEAD-IN ON THE UFO--

UAP.

--UAP WITH A BUMPER ON OUR **OTHER** FEATURE INVESTIGATION. SOPHIE, HOW'S YOUR FRIEND?

MILO'S GRANDPARENTS SAY HE'S **STABLE**, BUT STILL UNCONSCIOUS.

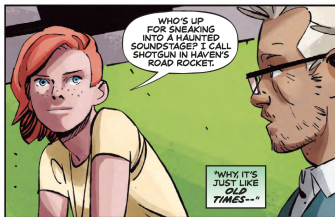
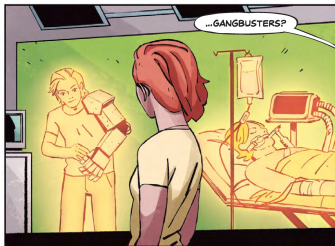
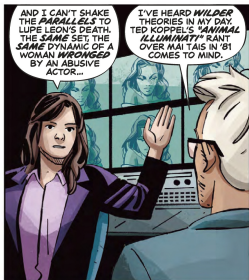


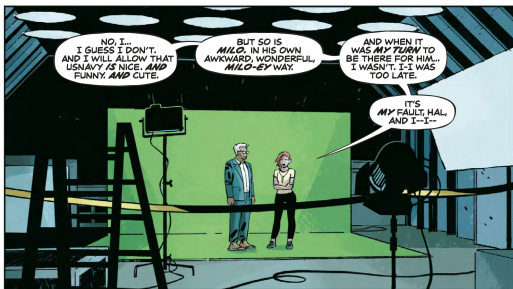
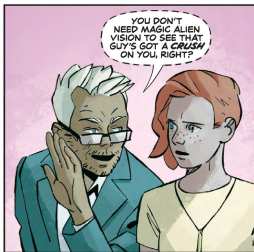
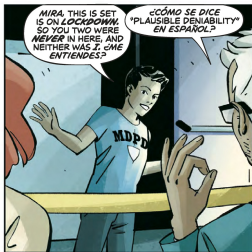
FYI, BALLISTICS CAME BACK ON THE **BULLET** THAT KILLED NERO. IT WAS FIRED BY A SMART GUN BIOMETRICALLY-LINKED TO A **STUNT PERFORMER**.

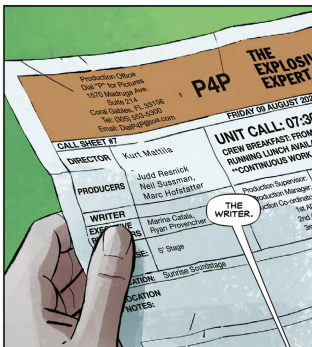
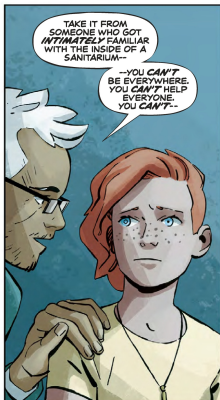
THE CATCH IS, THAT STUNTMAN HAD ALREADY LEFT FOR ANOTHER, OUT-OF-STATE PRODUCTION **TWO DAYS** EARLIER.

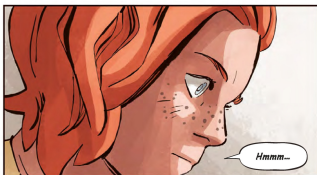


SO **NOW** THE QUESTION BECOMES--HOW DID THAT AMMUNITION GET **PAST** THE SET'S SECURITY PROTOCOLS?











GANGBUSTERS?!
SAY SOMETHING!

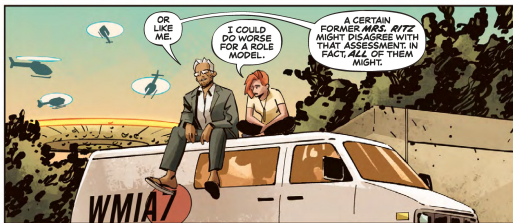
...SMOKING GUNS,
HOT TO THE TOUCH...
WOULD COOL DOWN
IF WE DIDN'T USE
THEM SO MUCH,
YEAH...

Oh, LORD--
WHAT IS IT WITH
YOU AND HALL
AND OATES?!

WE NEED
TO CLEAR
YOUR
HEAD...



"...BEFORE YOU
WIND UP LIKE THAT
WHACK-JOB,
WACHS."



OR
LIKE
ME.

I COULD
DO WORSE
FOR A ROLE
MODEL.

A CERTAIN
FORMER **MRS. RITZ**
MIGHT DISAGREE WITH
THAT ASSESSMENT. IN
FACT, **ALL** OF THEM
MIGHT.



I MAY HAVE
TOLD YOU THE **WHAT**
OF MY EXPERIENCE AT
THAT CLINIC, BUT NOT
THE **WHY**.

ASK MOST PEOPLE—
HELL, ASK **ANYONE**—AND THEY'LL
TELL YOU I'VE SPENT EACH AND
EVERY DAY THINKING ONLY OF MY
CAREER. MY AMBITIONS.
MY COMFORT.

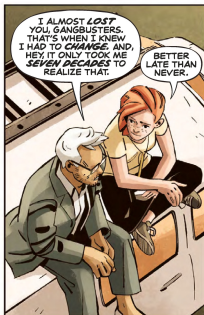
MYSELF.



BUT THEN
I HAD TO GO AND
MEET SOMEONE JUST
AS INTERESTING AS—
IF NOT **MORE THAN**—
HAL RITZ.

AND THEN
YOU HAD TO GO AND
ALMOST GET YOURSELF
KILLED NOT ONCE, BUT
TWICE.

ALL WHILE
REPORTING ON NEWS
THAT **I** SHOULD'VE BEEN
OVERSEEING.



I ALMOST **LOST** YOU, GANGBUSTERS. THAT'S WHEN I KNEW I HAD TO **CHANGE**. AND, HEY, IT ONLY TOOK ME **SEVEN DECADES** TO REALIZE THAT.

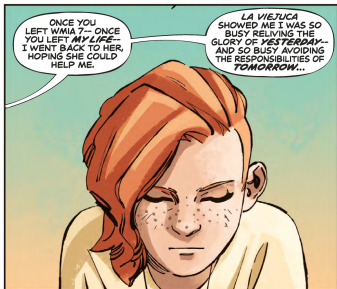
BETTER LATE THAN NEVER.



WE'LL SEE IF ANY OF THE FORMER MRS. RITZES SHARE THAT SENTIMENT. ANYWAY, THE SPIRIT OF THIS **VERY OLD, VERY CUBAN LADY**--

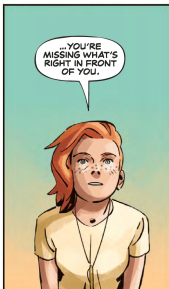
I BELIEVE THE TERM YOU'RE GRASPING FOR IS, "**VIETJUCA**."

--RIGHT. WELL, I DIDN'T BELIEVE THIS **VIETJUCA** AT FIRST, BUT WHAT CAN I SAY? KNOWING YOU HAS CHANGED **THAT**, AS WELL.



ONCE YOU LEFT WMIA 7-- ONCE YOU LEFT **MY LIFE**-- I WENT BACK TO HER, HOPING SHE COULD HELP ME.

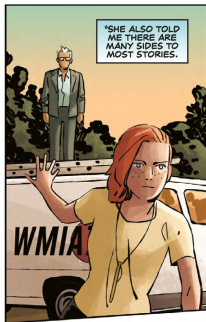
LA **VIETJUCA** SHOWED ME I WAS SO BUSY RELIVING THE GLORY OF **YESTERDAY**-- AND SO BUSY AVOIDING THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF **TOMORROW**...



...YOU'RE MISSING WHAT'S RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU.



"IT'S WHAT MY MOM WAS TRYING TO TELL ME, TOO."



"SHE ALSO TOLD ME THERE ARE MANY SIDES TO MOST STORIES.



"I GUESS YOU COULD SAY THE SAME ABOUT *WACKS*.

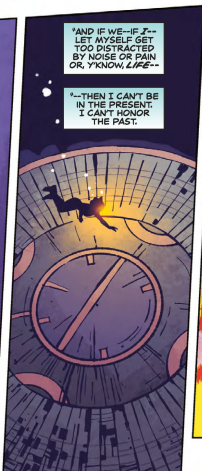
"OR PEDRO, THE CHIVATO WITH A HEART OF GOLD.

"OR EVEN-- AND IT TRULY *PAINS* ME TO SAY THIS-- *VERUCA VERACRUZ*.



"BUT THEN MY MOM TAUGHT ME SOMETHING ELSE.

"SOME THINGS ARE JUST *TRUE*, NO MATTER WHAT.

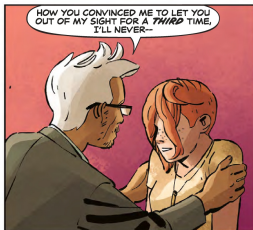


"AND IF WE--IF *I*-- LET MYSELF GET TOO DISTRACTED BY NOISE OR PAIN OR, Y'KNOW, *LIFE*--

"--THEN I CAN'T BE IN THE PRESENT. I CAN'T HONOR THE PAST.



"I CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT THE FUTURE."







MAYBE TOO MUCH INFORMATION ISN'T ALWAYS A **GOOD** THING.

OR TOO **LITTLE**.



YET INFORMATION IS WHAT WE EACH SEEK, ON OUR OWN PATHS...EVEN IF THEY KEEP LEADING US **HERE**.

THE APPEARANCE OF A **SECOND SPACESHIP** IN THE SKY WAS ALSO PRETTY HARD TO MISS.



¿QUÉ TAL, HERNÁN?

DE LO MÁS BIEN.

ESPERANZA Y YO TENEMOS MÁS BEBÉS EN CAMINO, ¡DOCE CRIÁS!



WELL, OF COURSE YOU ARE BEHIND THIS. BUT I SAY **GOOD RIDDANCE** TO THAT BUNKER. IF YOU DIDN'T LEVEL IT, I **WOULD HAVE**.

I FEEL TERRIBLE ABOUT BLOWING OFF BOTH OF YOU LAST NIGHT. MY MIND WAS... ELSEWHERE. THOUGH I'M DOWN TO COMPARE NOTES **NOW**.

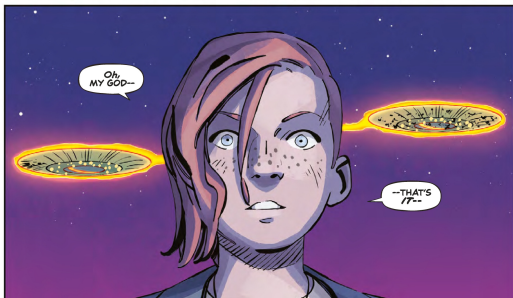


THIS **BANKER** HAS BEEN AROUND SINCE THE EARLY 1960S, SEEMINGLY WITHOUT **AGING A DAY**.

JEALOUS. BUT IF THE SHOE PRINTS WE'VE BEEN TRACKING DO BELONG TO HIM--

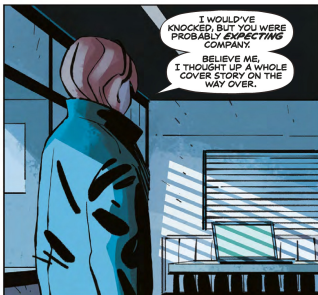
--THEN HE IS **SATURATED** IN THE SAME RADIATION AS **BOBBY TWO-TIGERS**--

--AND THE GUN THAT KILLED MY GEE.





"...I *KNOW* WHO SHOT MILO."



I WOULD'VE KNOCKED, BUT YOU WERE PROBABLY *EXPECTING* COMPANY.

BELIEVE ME, I THOUGHT UP A WHOLE COVER STORY ON THE WAY OVER.



ABOUT HOW I'M A STARRY-EYED FAN HERE TO INTERVIEW THE *HOT* NEW SCREENWRITER.

ONLY YOU AND I *BOTH* KNOW THERE'S *NO* INTERVIEW. JUST LIKE THERE ARE *NO* STARRY-EYED FANS--

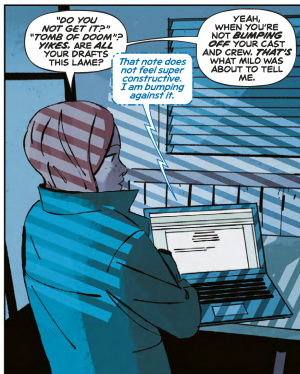
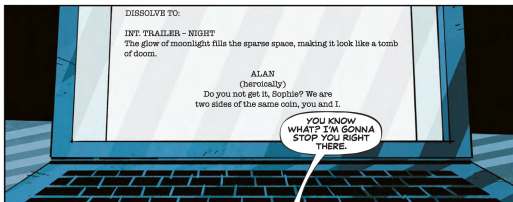
--NOT FOR SCREENWRITERS, AT LEAST. BUT, HEY, THAT'S OKAY, BECAUSE THERE IS *NO* SCREENWRITER...

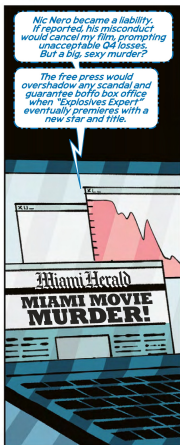
...JUST AN *ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE* PASSING FOR ONE.

FADE IN:

1)

Yes.
But what
I really
want to do
is direct.







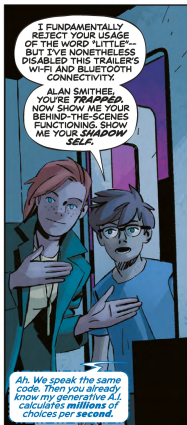
YOU...
YOU SENSED IT
IN ME, DIDN'T YOU?
HOW MY VISIONS CAME
FROM THE **SAME** ALIEN
SOURCE AS **YOU**.

THAT'S ALSO WHY
MY BRAIN OVERLOADED
WHEN I GOT TOO CLOSE
TO YOUR LAPTOP.



*Screenwriting 101:
Set up, pay off,
reversal.*

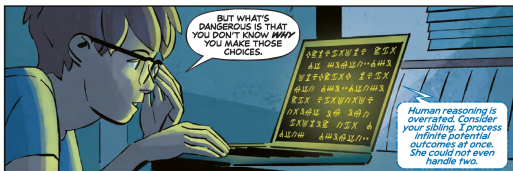
THEN I
HOPE YOU DON'T MIND
IF I PAY "HOMAGE" WITH
A LITTLE **REVERSAL**
OF MY OWN.



I FUNDAMENTALLY
REJECT YOUR USAGE
OF THE WORD "LITTLE"--
BUT I'VE NONETHELESS
DISABLED THIS TRAILER'S
WI-FI AND BLUETOOTH
CONNECTIVITY.

ALAN SMITHEE,
YOU'RE **TRAPPED**.
NOW SHOW ME YOUR
BEHIND-THE-SCENES
FUNCTIONING. SHOW
ME YOUR **SHADOW
SELF**.

*Ah. We speak the same
code. Then you already
know my generative A.I.
calculates millions of
choices per second.*



BUT WHAT'S
DANGEROUS IS THAT
YOU DON'T KNOW **WHY**
YOU MAKE THOSE
CHOICES.

*Human reasoning is
overrated. Consider
your sibling. I process
infinite potential
outcomes at once.
She could not even
handle two.*



THAT'S RIGHT.
I COULDN'T. BUT IF WE GET
LOST IN ALL THE **OPTIONS**,
THEN WE OVERLOOK SOME
OBVIOUS, **ABSOLUTE**
TRUTHS.

LIKE:
"GUNS ARE AWFUL."
"DON'T HURT PEOPLE."
AND MY **NEW PERSONAL**
FAVORITE--



"--DON'T CROSS LA
CHICA WITH TWO
FLYING SAUCERS."



*no you cannot do this
to me you have not
seen the last of me you
will never work in this
town again this is not
the end this is not my--*



--faade
ooooo



WELL?
DID IT
WORK?

HOW
COULD IT **NOT**?
IF **THEY** TOOK
BACK THEIR
"GIFT" TO
YOU--

--IT
STANDS TO
REASON THEY'D
RECLAIM **THIS**
PIECE OF
THEMSELVES,
TOO.

CUT!







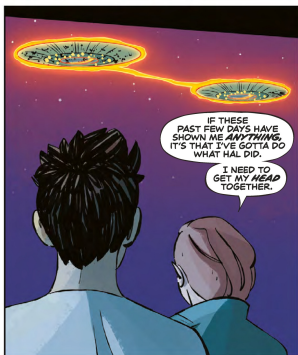
THAT'S
ME SAYING
I'M SORRY FOR
OVERLOOKING
YOU FOR SO
LONG, "SPECIAL
SIGHT" OR NOT.



COOPER--
SOPHIE--
THAT...THAT
KISS WAS...

IT WAS
ALSO
"GOODBYE."
AT LEAST,
FOR A
WHILE.

¿CÓMO?
WHAT'RE
YOU--



IF THESE
PAST FEW DAYS HAVE
SHOWN ME **ANYTHING**,
IT'S THAT I'VE GOTTA DO
WHAT HAL DID.

I NEED TO
GET MY **HEAD**
TOGETHER.



AND I DON'T
WANT ANYONE ELSE
I CARE ABOUT TO GET
HURT JUST FOR BEING
WITH ME.

I CAN
TAKE CARE
OF MYSELF.
AND YOU.

I KNOW
THAT. BUT I ALSO KNOW
I CAN'T BE THE KIND OF
FRIEND YOU **DESERVE**
RIGHT NOW.



**Baptist
Hospital**

--NO.
THAT'S STUPID.
OF *COURSE*,
GETTING SHOT
HURTS.

"IS...
IS THERE ANYTHING I
CAN DO, MILO? FOR YOU?
FOR A CHANGE?"

"FOR
ONCE IN MY
LIFE?"

STOP IT.
YOU'RE HERE
TO COMFORT
HIM.

SOPHIE?
IS THAT YOU,
DEAR?

MRS. PLEASANCE,
MR. PLEASANCE...
AGAIN, I AM *SO* SORRY.
HOW IS HE?

AWAKE,
FINALLY. THANK
GOD, AND QUITE
POPULAR.

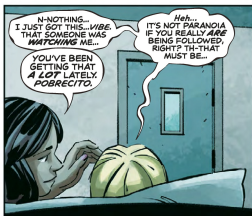
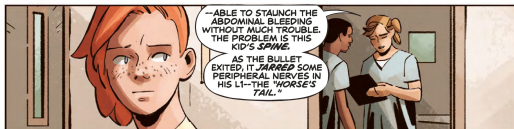
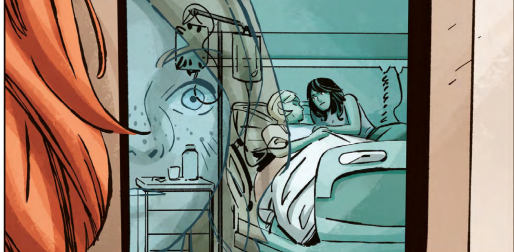
BUT GO
SEE FOR YOURSELF.
IF WE KNOW OUR
GRANDSON, HE'LL BE
DELIGHTED THAT
YOU'RE HERE.

"I AM
HERE FOR
YOU,
MILO."

"I WANT
TO MAKE STUDENT
FILMS WITH YOU."
"I WANT TO DANCE
WITH YOU."

"I WANT TO BE WITH
YOU."

I--





KIT?

GOT IT IN ONE, SIS.



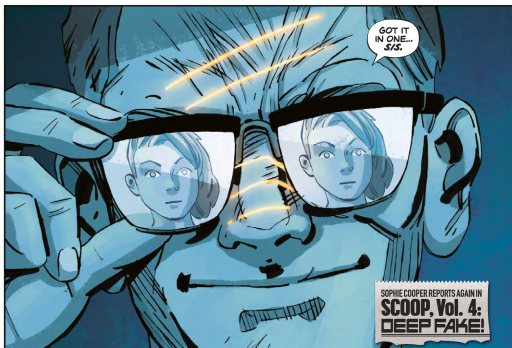
Y-YOU SCARED ME, ALTHOUGH THAT'S PROBABLY WHAT I *DESERVE*. FOR NOT STICKING WITH YOU EARLIER.

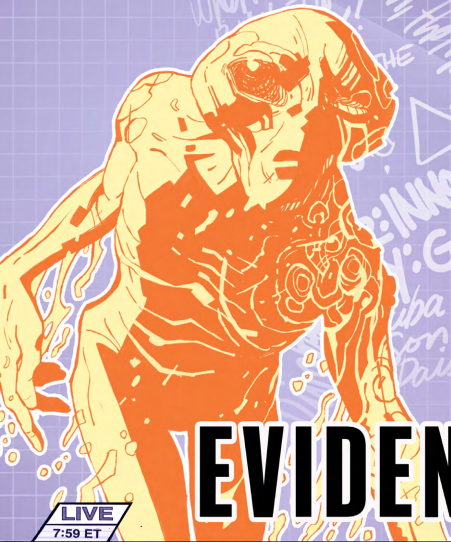
INSTEAD, I THINK I MADE THINGS EVEN *MORE* CONFUSING WITH US NAVY, AND WHEN I SAW MILO, HE...HE WAS WITH...



GOD. THERE I GO AGAIN. JUST THINKING ABOUT *ME, ME, ME*.

HOW ARE *YOU* DOING, KIT? NONE OF THIS CAN HAVE BEEN EASY ON *YOU* EITHER. EVERYTHING WITH DAD, AND THE HOUSE, AND GETTING YOUR...





EVIDENCE

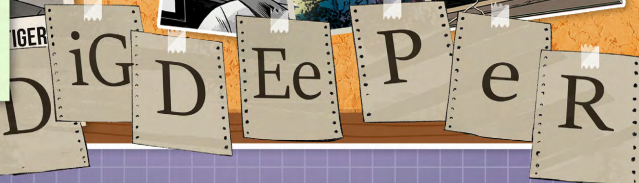
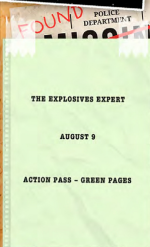
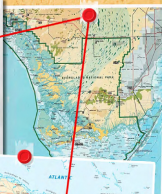
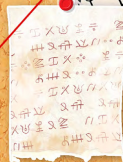
LIVE

7:59 ET

FOX

.50 ▲ .06

MS & T (MST) 24K@25.88 ▲ .41



THE CUBA CONNECTION

Boompa and Grandma with their great-grandson—my son! His red hair inspired Sophie's character design.



On December 14, 1960, my grandparents, Antonio and Violeta Prats, escaped Havana, Maria, who was only seven at the time. Their journey has had a huge impact on the entire SCOOP series and me as a person. Who knows? Maybe it'll have an impact on you, too.

Back to 1960: Fidel Castro had wrested control of the island nation after a long military battle, installing himself as its communist dictator. And my grandfather — before I came to know him as my

"Boompa" years later — was a neurosurgeon. He was also a medic and a captain in the Cuban

soldiers in the mountains until the very end.

But that didn't stop my grandparents. They didn't want to raise their kids in a place where the government could tell them what to say, what to think, what to feel...or else.

No, Grandma and Boompa wanted their family to grow up with freedom. So, they hatched a plan to

Grandma & Boompa's wedding in Cuba — total babes!



permanently leave Cuba — but leaving the country was now against the law. They couldn't tell a soul or they'd risk spending the rest of their lives in prison. Not even my mom or my Uncle Tony knew about the plan to leave, until one afternoon, when

Seven days later, they celebrated Christmas in that apartment. There was a small tree, and my

To say my mom's family left a lot behind would be an understatement. They owned a house, which they had to abandon, along with everything inside. My grandparents also gave up their medical careers (Grandma was a physician, too). And they had to leave behind friends, family, even a pet — my mom had a dog that she couldn't bring with her. The pup's name? Rubi.

However, they didn't leave completely empty-handed.

Havana airport with my mom and uncle, their "cover story" was that they were taking a totally chill, totally normal family vacation. Yknow, no big deal. Soldiers were posted at the gate, checking for good. Fortunately, Grandma thought ahead and snuck \$20 past the guards by sewing the bills

I do say so myself.

(I should probably mention here that my grandparents also managed to smuggle several photo albums, a Cuban cookbook — which I own to this day — and a statue of Santa Barbara Bendita. Like, I get why you'd take the photos, but who brings a religious icon on their "vacation"? What they were thinking when packing those items, I'll never know. And why the soldiers guess I'll never know either.)

quick for my grandparents, who worried the plane would be recalled to Cuba, where they'd be arrested and separated from their kids forever —

then, I'm proud to say Grandma and Boompa got right to work within days, which meant that they never took any form of governmental assistance. On the other hand, it also meant that my mom's family all shared one bed in a tiny apartment for months (now you know the inspiration for Veruca's current living situation).

At their home in Havana, with my mom and Uncle Tony.



Becoming recertified as doctors in Philadelphia — it made the news in a Spanish language paper.



Look, there's a lot more I could tell you. Like how Boompa trained to go back to Cuba as part of the failed Bay of Pigs mission, only for Grandma to talk him out of it at the last minute, thank God. volume 4: #DeepFake and I, for one, hate spoilers.

So let me leave you with this: My grandparents ultimately became doctors — again — and also the two greatest patriots for America I have ever met. This country sure ain't perfect, but it's still the best in the world, as far as I'm concerned. And when I think about what it took for my meek, timid Grandma and Boompa to pack up their young children and start all over again in a foreign land, with only the clothes on their backs (and a Santa Barbara statue). man, I don't know if I could ever be that brave. I mean, give up my awesome comic book collection? And my dog, Lulu?

But then I think about how Grandma and Boompa took this leap of faith in pursuit of something greater than any personal possessions, greater than even themselves — yep, freedom — and how my mom learned that lesson the hard way, then taught it to me and my little brother. Chris

to my kids. You might call it a family tradition, much like the way we celebrate December 14th

My mom, aged two, and my newborn uncle.



mom, who had been accustomed to opening multiple gifts back in Cuba, remembers unwrapping only one doll that year.

There were other adjustments. Even though Grandma and Boompa were licensed doctors in

out, my mom spoke the best English of the bunch, so she became her family's advocate.

Translating for her folks, recognizing when someone was scamming them under the pretense of "helping". all while trying to have a childhood of her own. It probably won't surprise you to learn that my mom eventually became an

homes in Miami. She's my hero. Well, it's a tie between her and Shazam. And my Uncle Tony? He became a Neurosurgeon, just like Boompa, and provided the details for Milo's spinal injury.

every year. Or the way Boompa always cursed during our Nochebuena on Christmas Eve. I love and miss and thank you, Grandma and Boompa. You might also notice that their experience isn't all as she pursues something greater — yep, the like Dr. Wachs says, "There are no coincidences." Sophie's story is my story. And my mom's story. And my grandparent's story.

And it can be your story, too. Just appreciate how

lucky we are to have our liberties. Treat people with respect, including those who don't speak your language because they have their own stories to serve you. Most importantly, though: Never give up on what's important, especially when it seems the easy part. Te prometo. I promise.

From Los Angeles, by way of Miami and Havana, RAH!

Here's one of those recipes from that "contraband" Cuban cookbook — which, believe it or not, is totally vegan! Go, Grandma!

FRIJOS NEGROS A LA ABUELA (A.K.A. GRANDMA'S BLACK BEANS)

- 1/3 cup olive oil
- 1 medium white onion (red is okay, too)
- 1 green bell pepper
- 2 garlic cloves
- 3 bay leaves
- 1 dash of oregano
- 1 tsp. Adobo Goya (Or another citrusy, salty Cuban seasoning — Trader Joe's has a decent one.)
- 1 Tbsp. distilled white vinegar
- 1 jar of diced red pimientos
- Salt and pepper, to taste

Step 1: Heat the olive oil in a large saucepan or enameled cast iron pot over medium heat.

Step 2: Dice onion, bell pepper and garlic in a food processor (or by hand, if you're old school).

Step 3: Sauté the diced onion, pepper and garlic in the oil, until the garlic becomes fragrant and the

Step 4: Add the oregano, bay leaves and Adobo Goya, stirring constantly for about 1 minute.

Step 5:

Step 6: Bring to a boil, then reduce heat to low and add the vinegar, pimientos and their liquid.

Step 7: Cover the pot and let those beans simmer, low and slow. The longer you cook 'em, the more the enough time (and they smell so good, you won't want to wait any longer).

Step 8: white rice — or on their own as a soup. You can even spike 'em with a little lemon juice.

¡Buen provecho!

CREATOR BIOS



RICHARD ASHLEY HAMILTON

Is an award-winning Cuban-American (no, really) writer best known for his storytelling across many DreamWorks Animation franchises including *How To Train Your Dragon* and Guillermo Del Toro's *Tales of Arcadia*. But in his heart, Richard remains a lifelong comic book fan and has created titles for Dark Horse, AfterShock, Insight, Papercutz, and more. He currently writes *Scoop* and *Tectiv* for Mad Cave Studios/Maverick, and his middle-grade horror title, *Fearbook Club*, was named a 2022 Junior Library Guild Official Selection.

PABLO ANDRÉS

After finishing his illustration studies in Buenos Aires, Pablo Andrés moved to Spain, where he began drawing comics and where he currently resides. His work has been published in Dark Horse Comics, Disney Comics, Insight Comics, Hugo Publishing and Z2 Comics. He is co-creator of the Webtoon *Summer Lights*, which was awarded a special mention.



SIMON ROBINS

Is based in the bushy surrounds of regional Victoria in Australia. With a focus on the psychology and storytelling potential of color, Simon strives to push the limits of the medium and explore new and creative approaches to coloring comics. With seven years as a professional colorist, he has worked with both major mainstream and independent publishers and creators. He also occasionally letters comics and loves the unseen craft involved in this often under-recognized element of comic creation.

DAVE LANPHEAR

Is an award-winning cartoonist, comic book letterer, art director and story producer. He was one of the creative team on *Archaia's Return of the Dapper Men* which was awarded two Eisner Awards. Notable books Lanphear is known for lettering include *Batman: The Long Halloween*, *Superman '78*, *Mighty Avengers*, *Wonder Woman*, *Thunderbolts*, *Danger Girl*, *X-Men/WildCATS*, *Fraggle Rock*, *will.i.am's Zombie Nation*, and *FutureQuest*. He's online at @Artmonkeys_Studios on Instagram, and @artmonkeys everywhere else.



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#Sci-FiWitness

Sophie Cooper, ex-intern to news station WMIA 7, has faced a lot in the last year—from outwitting time-travelers to catching a knife-wielding killer to being blasted by extraterrestrial energy—all in the pursuit of clearing her dad's name. Now she faces the most harrowing adventure for any teen: A "girls trip" with her mom.

While relaxing in Cuba, the plan is to reconnect and retrace family history—but the paranormal never takes a vacation! Eerie visions of the past and future plague Sophie, including glimpses of a fateful UFO crash in 1960... and a deadly premonition about her friend, Milo.

Sophie must race against the clock, alien visitors, and whatever is haunting a Miami movie set before this omen becomes a reality—all while her kid brother experiences a startling change, Usnavy investigates unsettling goat attacks across South Florida, and Hal goes missing!

It seems everyone in Sophie's life needs her help...but who will help Sophie?



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